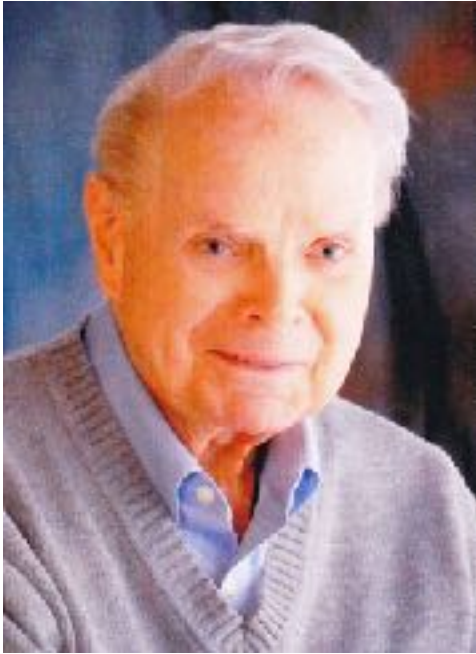


Phil Jones  
(1924 – 2015)

Founding member and first secretary-treasurer of NONC



In 1950 and 1951 a small group of interested citizens who had a connection to the Forest Insect Laboratory in Vernon, as well as sharing a deep interest in natural history, met several times. These early meetings and discussions led to the inaugural or founding meeting of the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club on December 12, 1951 in the Vernon Elementary School library. One of those in attendance at all the early meetings was Phil Jones.

Phil was born in Prince George, but spent his early years in Smithers. He was a student assistant on the Forest Insect Survey at the Trinity Valley Field Station in the summers of 1947/48, and received a BSc (Ag) from UBC in 1949. His course work was in both agriculture and forestry.

He left this area in 1952 to enter graduate school at the University of Wisconsin and obtained a MSc in Entomology in 1956. He completed his PhD studies in 1963. In 1964 he accepted a position with South Dakota State University in the Entomology-Zoology Department. Phil was both the State Survey Entomologist and a researcher on the control of agricultural insects. In 1974 he accepted a private sector position and moved to Burlington, Ontario. In 1977 he began work for Environment Canada in Ottawa in the Commercial Chemicals Branch where he assessed the environmental impact of commercial chemicals and pesticides.

Throughout his long career Phil was author or co-author of many academic papers and publications in forest and agricultural entomology. Phil retired to Vernon in 1993. He maintained a strong attachment to his home community of Smithers, B.C. and the Bulkley Valley where his social history commentaries formed part of the exhibits in the local museum/archives. He also mentored several young people in their fields of academic study and in amateur sports.

Phil was honored in 2014 for his long association with NONC, for being our first secretary/treasurer in 1951/52 and the singular distinction of being the only surviving member of the founding group of what has become known as NONCers in 1951.

Phil died in Vernon on January 8, 2015. A residual part of Phil's estate has been used to establish the Philip A. Jones Fellowship Endowment Fund at the University of British Columbia to provide fellowships to graduate students pursuing research in entomology or botany in relation to agriculture.